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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 31, 2009. Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 16 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 1-16 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 1 and 16 being in independent form.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

In response, the claims have been amended to address the formal issues referenced in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11, 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Nakajima et al. (US 5,761,334). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Matsui (understood to be US 6,215,479).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is allowable over the cited art, for at least the reason that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the aspects of the present application of (a) displaying imaging conditions including a frame indicating a scan area and *lines indicating imaging positions of the tomographic images and image reconstruction positions of the tomographic images*, and (b) *setting or changing the imaging conditions for imaging the tomographic images, by adjusting the frame and the lines*.

Nakajima, as understood by applicant, proposes an apparatus for computer aided diagnosis of images wherein an abnormal pattern in a radiation image of an object is detected (by detecting means 40), extracted (by extracting means 60) from an image signal representing the

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radiation image and displayed (by displaying means 90) for use as a tool by the person performing diagnosis of an illness.

However, the apparatus proposed in Nakajima, as understood, does **NOT** provide means for a user to *set or change the imaging conditions for imaging tomographic images, by adjusting a frame (that shows a scan area) and lines (that indicate imaging positions of the tomographic images and image reconstruction positions of the tomographic images).*

Indeed, the image signal in Nakajima represents an image recorded on X-ray film or a stimulable phosphor sheet, and such image is **NOT** used to select or set *imaging positions of tomographic images and image reconstruction positions of the tomographic images.*

The image P shown in the figures of Nakajima represents an entire radiation image of the object being imaged.

However, the image P that is displayed by the apparatus proposed in Nakajima, contrary to the contention in the Office Action, does **NOT** display ... *lines indicating imaging positions of tomographic images and image reconstruction positions of the tomographic images*, and does NOT provide means for the user to select or set the *imaging positions of the tomographic images and image reconstruction positions of the tomographic images.*

Matsui (understood to be US 6,215,479), like Nakajima, does NOT disclose or suggest such aspects of the present application.

Applicant submits that the cited art, even when considered along with common sense and common knowledge to one skilled in the art, does **NOT** render unpatentable the above-mentioned aspects of the present application of (a) displaying imaging conditions including a frame indicating a scan area and *lines indicating imaging positions of the tomographic images and image reconstruction positions of the tomographic images*, and (b) *setting or changing the*

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*imaging conditions for imaging the tomographic images, by adjusting the frame and the lines.*

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 16, and the claims depending therefrom, are allowable over the cited art.

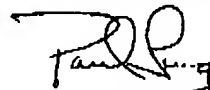
The Office Action indicates that claim 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, since independent claim 1 is submitted to be allowable over the cited art, no changes to the form of claim 12 is believed to be necessary.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now allowable, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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